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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP

INTELLIGENCE REPORT



COUNTRY Yugoslavia

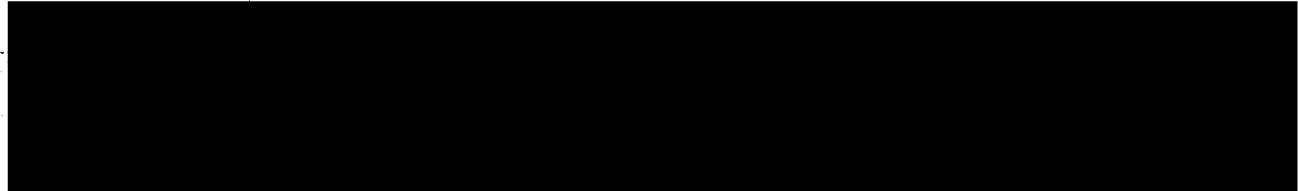
SUBJECT Brocko-Banovici Railroad

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SOURCE

1. The Brocko-Banovici railroad line which was recently completed by volunteer Yugoslav labor groups, is of normal European gauge and was begun last May.
2. An intensive propaganda campaign to encourage the people to work accompanied the construction of this railroad. Demonstrations, reprisals and other pressures were used in the attempt to get volunteers. The campaign was successful, and each town or region supplied a brigade or two for a period of two months, these brigades being replaced by fresh groups. The average number in each brigade ranged from 150 to 500 young men and women.
3. While the rapid turnover in workers slowed the work, the authorities welcomed the opportunity of this period as training in "collective living and work" and political orientation. There were six hours of work each day and six more of "instruction" by political commissars and Party intellectuals. The curriculum was patterned after the Soviet "Komsomol" (Union of Soviet Communist Youth) and included courses for illiterates, Partisan songs, newsreels, lectures and dancing. Special subjects such as Communist Doctrine, History and Organization were offered to selected workers.
4. During the first period of May and June, there were 14,041 workers from all classes of Yugoslav society and from all Yugoslav republics. Foreign communists were also represented in some brigades. This May-June group finished the road-bed for 18 kilometers and laid six kilometers of track.
5. The second group worked during July and August. It was composed of 87 brigades and totalled 24,000 workers. The majority were students from all Yugoslavia, including some 200 foreign communists from Eastern Europe and the Balkans. This group laid rails to 28 kilometers beyond Brocko where they had trouble with two tunnels and landslides.
6. The third group which worked during September and October numbered approximately 16,000 workers who were mostly peasants and inhabitants of small towns.
7. All field work and administration was directed by the General Staff of the Youth Work Brigades for the Brocko-Banovici Railroad Line.

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